



# THE DERBY DISPATCH

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## WAR OF WILL GOES FOR FAIR GROUNDS PREPS SWEEP IN TWINSPIRES.COM LOUISIANA DERBY

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 21, 2019)** – No rival has yet made a dent in **War of Will**'s leadership of the 3-year-old division in New Orleans this winter, but 10 will make a belated attempt to do so Saturday in the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade I) at Fair Grounds.

The 1 1/8-mile Louisiana Derby is the finale on a 13-race program and is the first Road to the Kentucky Derby series race that will award qualifying points of 100-50-20-10 to the top four finishers.

War of Will is already safely in the Churchill Downs classic having accumulated 60 points by winning the Lecomte (GIII) and Risen Star (GII) in comfortable fashion, but a third decisive win Saturday could put him in the discussion as a potential favorite on the first Saturday in May, which has not been a bad position to be in of late with every public choice having won the past six years.

Despite being far back early in the field of 14 in the Risen Star, **Country House** advanced to second by mid-stretch and held that position at the wire, a positive stakes debut all around. Trainer **Bill Mott** has been an infrequent Kentucky Derby participant during his long career, but Country House could be one of potentially three runners for him come May 4.

**Todd Pletcher** has won this race more times (four) than any other trainer, and will rely on **Spinoff** to provide a fifth victory. The lightly-raced colt has won two of three, most recently an allowance at Tampa Bay Downs by nearly a dozen lengths. In his lone prior stakes try, he finished third to **Call Paul** in the Saratoga Special (GII) last August.

**Sueno** earned his lone stakes win on Tapeta at Golden Gate Fields, but has run well in two dirt tries since, finishing second in both the Sham (GIII) and Southwest (GIII). In the latter, he out-finished **Long Range Toddy**, who came back to defeat **Improbable** in the first division of last Saturday's Rebel (GII).

The deep-closing **Roiland** and **Hog Creek Hustle** finished third and fourth, respectively, in the Risen Star, and will be dependent on a strong pace from the likes of Spinoff and possibly **Lemniscate**. **Limonite**, third in the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) in his stakes debut, had a less-than-ideal trip when fifth in the Risen Star and could take a step forward in his second start of the season. – **Vance Hanson/Brisnet.com**

**MUCHO GUSTO SQUARES OFF AGAINST ANOTHERTWISTAFATE IN SUNLAND DERBY** – Robert B. Lewis (Grade III) winner **Mucho Gusto** will faceoff against runaway El Camino Real Derby hero **Anothertwistafate** in Sunday's \$800,000 Sunland Derby (Grade III) – the premiere race at the Hobbs, N.M. track's Thoroughbred meeting.

Mucho Gusto, trained by Hall of Famer **Bob Baffert** defeated four rivals by 4 3/4 lengths in the Robert B. Lewis at Santa Anita. The son of Mucho Macho Man only has one blemish on his four-race resume – a runner-up effort behind top Kentucky Derby contender **Improbable** in the Los Alamitos Futurity (GI).

The chief competitor to Mucho Gusto is synthetic-track specialist **Anothertwistafate** who will make only his second-career try on the dirt following three runaway scores at Golden Gate Fields in northern California.

Trained by **Blaine Wright**, the speedy Anothertwistafate only try on the dirt was his career debut at Santa Anita where he finished ninth.

The Sunland Derby, which is carded as Race 11 on Sunland Park's 12-race program, has a scheduled post time of 7:30 p.m. EDT. The Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series race will award the Top 4 finishers points on a 50-20-10-5 scale. – **Kevin Kerstein/Churchill Downs**

### ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY TOP 25

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	War of Will	Mark Casse	60
2.	Code of Honor	Shug McGaughey III	54
3.	Long Range Toddy	Steve Asmussen	53.5
4.	Haikal	Kieran McLaughlin	50
5.	Tacitus	Bill Mott	50
6.	Game Winner	Bob Baffert	45
7.	Omaha Beach	Richard Mandella	37.5
8.	Mind Control	Gregg Sacco	30
9.	Improbable	Bob Baffert	25
10.	Gunmetal Gray	Jerry Hollendorfer	21.75
11.	Bourbon War	Mark Hennig	21
12.	Somelikeitotbrown	Mike Maker	20
13.	Country House	Bill Mott	20
14.	Outshine	Todd Pletcher	20
15.	Knicks Go	Ben Colebrook	18
16.	Signalman	Kenny McPeck	18
17.	Mucho Gusto	Bob Baffert	14
18.	Tax	Danny Gargan	12
19.	Harvey Wallbanger	Kenny McPeck	10
20.	Well Defined	Kathy O'Connell	10
21.	Instagrاند	Jerry Hollendorfer	10
22.	Veokoma	George Weaver	10
23.	Gray Attempt	Jinks Fires	10
24.	Win Win Win	Mike Trombetta	10
25.	Anothertwistafate	Blaine Wright	10

### DERBY DETAIL

**NBCSN TO BROADCAST LOUISIANA DERBY** – With the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) less than 50 days away, NBCSN will present exclusive live coverage of the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby this Saturday at 5:30 p.m. EDT from Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans.

Exactly six weeks ahead of the May 4 running of the 145<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Derby, the Grade II Louisiana Derby marks the first prep race awarding Kentucky Derby qualifying points on a

100-40-20-10 scale for the top four finishers. War of Will is expected to be the favorite in the 11-horse field.

**Ahmed Fareed** hosts Saturday's coverage, alongside analysts **Jerry Bailey**, a Hall of Fame jockey who has twice won the Louisiana Derby, and **Randy Moss**.

**NEW 'ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY SERIES DEBUTS** – NBC Sports, in partnership with Churchill Downs, will debut a new “Road to the Kentucky Derby” series Saturday after the Louisiana Derby coverage concludes, beginning at 6:30 p.m. ET on NBCSN.

The first of four 30-minute episodes features country music star **Toby Keith**, a lifelong racing fan who is now a Thoroughbred breeder and owner, and an interview with **Sol Kumin**, co-owner of Triple Crown winner **Justify**.

Produced by Churchill Downs, the episodes will provide viewers with an inside look at the extensive preparations for the first leg of the Triple Crown. **Keith Wetzler**, Executive Producer of Broadcast at Churchill Downs, produces the series.

Coverage will be streamed live on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app – NBC Sports Group's live streaming product for mobile devices, tablets, and connected TVs.

**WAR OF WILL HOPES TO BECOME FOURTH HORSE IN FIVE YEARS TO SWEEP RISEN STAR, LOUISIANA DERBY DOUBLE** – With a victory in Saturday's Louisiana Derby (Grade II), Gary Barber's **War of Will** could become the fourth horse in the last five years to sweep the Risen Star-Louisiana Derby double.

War of Will, who is the heavy 6-5 morning line favorite for Saturday's 1 1/8-mile race, won both the Risen Star (GII) and Lecomte Stakes (GIII) at Fair Grounds. The last horse to sweep the three Road to the Kentucky Derby prep races at Fair Grounds was **International Star** in 2015.

International Star (2015), **Gun Runner** (2016) and **Girvin** (2017) won the Risen Star prior to their Louisiana Derby victory.

**BETTER WITH AGE** – **Long Range Toddy** won the first division of the Rebel Stakes (GII) on Saturday with 58-year-old jockey **Jon Court** aboard. Should Court ride Long Range Toddy in the Kentucky Derby, he'd be the oldest jockey to ever ride in the race.

Court, who is represented by 67-year-old agent **Steve Krajcir**, has ridden in the Kentucky Derby three times and his best finish was eighth aboard **Will Take Charge** in 2013.

Jockey **Bobby Baird** rode in the 1978 Derby at age 57. The oldest jockey to win the Kentucky Derby was **Bill Shoemaker** at age 54 when he rode **Ferdinand** to victory in 1986.

**ADDITIONAL TRIPLE CROWN NEWS** – Training is set to begin Friday at Churchill Downs. The backstretch opened Tuesday and trainers **Greg Foley** and **Dallas Stewart** were the first to arrive.

## THE RUNDOWN

### TWINSPIRES.COM LOUISIANA DERBY (GII)

Saturday, March 23, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Fair Grounds (R13), Post time: 6:13 p.m. EDT. New Orleans, La., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10. TV: NBCSN, TVG

#	Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Roiland (10)	James Graham	Tom Amoss	12-1
2.	Lemniscate (0)	Brian Hernandez Jr.	Kenny McPeck	15-1
3.	Limonite (2)	Jose Ortiz	Steve Asmussen	20-1
4.	Sueno (8)	Corey Lanerie	Keith Desormeaux	8-1
5.	By My Standards (0)	Gabriel Saez	Bret Calhoun	12-1
6.	War of Will (60)	Tyler Gaffalione	Mark Casse	6-5
7.	Mr. Money (2)	Adam Beschizza	Bret Calhoun	20-1
8.	Country House (20)	Luis Saez	Bill Mott	9-2
9.	Bankit (4)	Irad Ortiz Jr.	Steve Asmussen	20-1
10.	Spinoff (0)	John Velazquez	Todd Pletcher	8-1
11.	Hog Creek Hustle (9)	Miguel Mena	Vickie Foley	12-1

### SUNLAND DERBY (GII)

Sunday, March 24, \$800,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Sunland Park (R11), Post time: 7:30 p.m. EDT, Hobbs, N.M., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. TV: TVG

#	Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Mucho Gusto (14)	Joe Talamo	Bob Baffert	8-5
2.	Another twistafate (10)	Juan Hernandez	Blaine Wright	3-1
3.	+Hustle Up (0)	Shane Laviolette	Todd Fincher	5-1
4.	Wicked Indeed (1)	Luis Contreras	Steve Asmussen	6-1
5.	Cutting Humor (0)	John Velazquez	Todd Pletcher	8-1
6.	Walker Stalker (0)	Alejandro Medellin	Jose Gonzalez Jr.	15-1
7.	+Pasamonte Man (0)	Ken Tohill	Joel Marr	20-1
8.	+Collusionist (0)	Alfredo Juarez Jr.	O.A. Martinez Jr.	25-1
9.	Diamond Blitz (0)	Kent Desormeaux	Keith Desormeaux	15-1
10.	Eye Cloud (0)	Isaia Enriquez	Tracy Norris	30-1

+Not Triple Crown Nominated

### TWINSPIRES.COM FAIR GROUNDS OAKS (GII)

Saturday, March 23, \$400,000, 3yo fillies, 1 1/16 M, Fair Grounds (R12), Post time: 5:44 p.m. EDT. New Orleans, La., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10. TV: NBCSN, TVG

#	Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Speedette (0)	Corey Lanerie	Keith Desormeaux	10-1
2.	Serengeti Empress (60)	James Graham	Tom Amoss	6-5
3.	Street Band (5)	Sophie Doyle	Larry Jones	8-1
4.	Sweet Diane (2)	Joe Bravo	Mike Stidham	8-1
5.	++Crescentcitypretty (0)	Miguel Mena	Tyron Benoit	15-1
6.	Eres Tu (14)	Jose Ortiz	Steve Asmussen	6-1
7.	Slewoodtobetruer (0)	Florent Geroux	Peter Eurton	8-1
8.	Liora (31)	Channing Hill	Wayne Catalano	5-1

### SUNLAND PARK OAKS

Sunday, March 24, \$200,000, 3yo fillies, 1 1/16 M, Sunland Park (R9), Post time: 6:27 p.m. EDT. Hobbs, N.M., Top 4 Points: 50-20-10-5. TV: TVG

#	Horse (Points)	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	++Victim of Love (0)	Ry Eikleberry	Henry Dominguez	4-1
2.	Parade of Roses (0)	Joe Talamo	Nate Williams	10-1
3.	++Figure (0)	Ken Tohill	Joel Marr	12-1
4.	++Peaceoutyourhonor (0)	Alfredo Juarez Jr.	Tony Sedillo	30-1
5.	++Backflash (0)	Luis Contreras	Steve Asmussen	6-1
6.	++K P Slickem (0)	Tyler Baze	Weston Martin	8-1
7.	Chasing Yesterday (10)	Drayden Van Dyke	Bob Baffert	9-5
8.	Enlisting (0)	Kent Desormeaux	Bob Hess Jr.	5-1
9.	Bellafina (32)	Flavien Prat	Simon Callahan	7-5

++Not Kentucky Oaks Nominated

## UPCOMING ROAD TO THE DERBY RACES

Date	Race	Track	Top 4 Points
March 23	Louisiana Derby	FG	100-40-20-10
March 24	Sunland Derby	Sun	50-20-10-5
March 30	UAE Derby	Meydan	100-40-20-10
March 30	Florida Derby	GP	100-40-20-10
March 31	Fukuryu#	Nakayama	40-16-8-4
April 6	Wood Memorial	Aqu	100-40-20-10
April 6	Blue Grass	Kee	100-40-20-10
April 6	Santa Anita Derby	SA	100-40-20-10
April 11	Cardinal Condition*	Chelmsford	30-12-6-3
April 13	Arkansas Derby	OP	100-40-20-10
April 13	Lexington	Kee	20-8-4-2

# Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby

\* European Road to the Kentucky Derby

## ROAD TO DERBY VIDEO SERIES

- Episode 7: A Big Race for an Intimate Track  
<http://bit.ly/RTKDEP7>
- Episode 6: A Potential Super Star  
<https://bit.ly/2SUIYYC>
- Episode 5: Follow Trainer Kelly Breen as he Trains Son of Orb  
<https://bit.ly/2SwgeF3>
- Episode 4 :Kenny McPeck – The Underdog Trainer  
<https://bit.ly/2d1fyM>
- Episode 3: Breeders' Cup Battle Produces Early Derby Favorite  
<https://bit.ly/2UZkWrY>
- Episode 2: A Twist in the Road at Keeneland  
<https://bit.ly/2DBL05h>
- Episode 1: Neuroscience to the Iroquois Stakes  
<https://bit.ly/2SR398P>

## PAST PERFORMANCES & HISTORY

Brinset.com Triple Crown Past Performances

<http://bit.ly/2C701vP>

Louisiana Derby Stakes History

<http://bit.ly/2TgJGKR>

Sunland Derby Stakes History

<http://bit.ly/2Wcf9jh>

Louisiana Derby Past Performances

<http://bit.ly/2HG3epS>

## SPOTLIGHT HORSE: LONG RANGE TODDY

- One word to describe Rebel Stakes (Grade II) winner **Long Range Toddy's** career is "consistent." Owned by Arkansas-native **Willis Horton**, Long Range Toddy sports four victories through seven races with his only off-the-board finish coming in his career debut where he finished fourth. Trained by Hall of Fame conditioner **Steve Asmussen**, Long Range Toddy has amassed 53.5 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby and likely stamped himself a spot in the starting gate for the first Saturday in May.
- **Owner information:** Willis Horton, a 78-year-old native of Marshall, Ark., developed **D.R. Horton Custom Homes**, which became the nation's largest builder of single-family homes. Horton retired in the early 1990s and

began focusing on owning horses with his brother **Leon**, son **Cam** and his nephew **Terry**. Most notably, Horton campaigned Longines Kentucky Oaks winner **Lemons Forever** and champion 3-year-old **Will Take Charge**. Horton had two horses run in the Kentucky Derby – Will Take Charge (2013, 9<sup>th</sup>) and **Combatant** (2018, 18<sup>th</sup>).

- **Trainer information:** Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen** is a perennial leading conditioner in the U.S. with more than 8,300 career victories including 44 Grade I scores. Asmussen, 53, was born in South Dakota but moved to Laredo, Texas at a young age. Asmussen's family is heavily involved in the horse racing industry. His father, **Keith**, is a retired jockey and mother, **Marilyn**, is a retired trainer. The family operates the **El Primero Training Center** – a breeding and sales operation in south Texas. Asmussen's older brother, **Cash**, is a trainer and retired Eclipse Award-winning jockey. Some of Asmussen's top horses include **Curlin**, **Gun Runner**, **Rachel Alexandra** and **Untapable**. – *Kevin Kerstein*

## SCULLY'S KENTUCKY DERBY REPORT

### REBEL YIELDS CLOSE FINISHES

**Game Winner** and **Improbable** returned to the races in separate divisions of Saturday's Rebel (GII) at Oaklawn Park and while both came up a little short for **Bob Baffert**, supporters still had reason to be encouraged by their runner-up finishes.

Those seeking clarity regarding favoritism for the 2019 Kentucky Derby came away disappointed.

**Long Range Toddy** and **Omaha Beach** denied the odds-on favorites, each picking up 37.5 points, and now appear well-situated to make a projected 20-horse Kentucky Derby field. Since the advent of the Road to the Kentucky Derby series in 2013, 32 points has been the highest cut-off point (**Mo Tom** in 2016).

Seventeen qualifiers have been offered this year and the only two-time winner, **War of Will**, will seek a third this Saturday in the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) at Fair Grounds. The **Mark Casse**-trained colt heads a field of 11 and the 1 1/8-mile race serves as the first of seven major final preps awarding points on a 100-40-20-10 scale to the top four finishers.

The Kentucky Derby is six weeks from Saturday.

### Rebel First Division

Long Range Toddy broke on top from his inside post and showed the way into the first turn of the 1 1/16-mile Rebel before relinquishing the advantage to **Classy John**. The **Steve Asmussen**-trained sophomore settled nicely for new rider **Jon Court**, easing back to race a couple of lengths off the pace along the backstretch, and patiently saved ground behind a quartet of horses on the far turn.

A **Willis Horton** homebred son of Take Charge Indy, Long Range Toddy angled out for clear sailing while straightening for home but remained fourth with a sixteenth of a mile remaining. The dark bay colt found his best stride in deep stretch, rallying determinedly to overhaul Improbable by a neck, and netted a 104 BRIS Late Pace number for the

commendable finish. He went off as the 8-1 third choice among eight runners.

The winner took a big step forward from a BRIS Speed perspective, earning a 97 figure, and is improving at the right time. Out of an Unbridled's Song mare, Long Range Toddy possesses the pedigree and appears built for longer distances.

Long Range Toddy received only an 89 Speed rating posting an upset win in the Remington Springboard Mile in mid-December. He did a little better when opening the year in the Smarty Jones, garnering a 92 for a neck second, and recorded a 91 for a troubled third in the Feb. 18 Southwest (GIII) at Oaklawn. It was easy to appreciate the push-button acceleration he displayed in the Rebel stretch and Long Range Toddy's tractability is an asset.

Improbable broke from the far outside and had ample opportunity to drop behind rivals a few jumps out of the starting gate. **Drayden Van Dyke** held his outside positioning and that became an issue when **Galilean**, who missed the break, rushed forward and pushed Improbable even wider into the first turn.

The 2-5 favorite continued to take the overland path along the backstretch and launched his move while entering the far turn. The crowd roared as Improbable advanced to take a short lead into upper stretch and it momentarily appeared as if a romping win was materializing. But instead of storming into a commanding advantage, Improbable lacked an extra gear and led by only a length over tiring rivals **Galilean** and **Extra Hope** as Long Range Toddy began to offer his bid on the far outside.

Unbeaten in three juvenile starts, Improbable registered a 100 BRIS Speed rating for an impressive win in the Los Alamitos Futurity (GI) in mid-December. Two starts previously, he received a 99 and showed an affinity for Churchill Downs posting a dominant tally in the Street Sense. His Speed number dropped to a 97 in the Rebel and I came away a little concerned about his prospects at 1 ¼ miles this spring, but it wasn't a bad second considering the ground loss and three-month layoff.

Improbable figures to be tighter when he returns for the \$1 million Arkansas Derby (GI) on April 13 and how he fares on the stretch out to 1 1/8 miles will be key to evaluating his Kentucky Derby chances three weeks later.

### ***Rebel Second Division***

Omaha Beach raced prominently from the start of his stakes debut, showing the way on a short lead down the backstretch. He offered a nice turn of foot to widen the advantage on the far turn and reached the mile mark with a two-length edge, but Game Winner came charging to make it extremely tight on the wire.

Owned by **Fox Hill Farms** and trained by **Richard Mandella**, Omaha Beach dug in gamely repel the champion 2-year-old male by a nose and emerged as a major Kentucky Derby contender. **Mike Smith**, rider of 2018 Triple Crown winner **Justify**, picked up the mount on the last-out maiden winner and 4-1 second choice.

By War Front, Omaha Beach had raced exclusively in Southern California. He opened his career in turf routes, recording a third and a pair of seconds, before switching to the main track with a neck second to Kentucky Derby hopeful **Nolo Contesto** in early January. The dark bay colt

was exiting a nine-length triumph at seven furlongs over a sloppy Santa Anita track on Feb. 2.

Omaha Beach recorded a career best 98 BRIS Speed rating Saturday and shows a nice pattern of improving numbers (94-96-98). He earned his first triple-digit Late Pace number (100) and displayed excellent resiliency against an experienced stakes competitor. And he even galloped out in front after the wire.

Omaha Beach counts 2014 champion 2-year-old filly **Take Charge Brandi** as a half-sister and hails from the Seeking the Gold mare **Charming**, a daughter of multiple Grade I-winning millionaire and 2013 Broodmare of the Year **Take Charge Lady**. Charming is a half-sibling to champion **Will Take Charge** and Grade I-winning millionaire **Take Charge Indy**, the sire of Long Range Toddy.

The future appears bright for Omaha Beach and it's good to see Mandella on the Kentucky Derby trail with a legitimate contender. Similar to fellow veteran Hall of Famer **Bill Mott**, who is also well-situated this year with a trio of prospects, Mandella has never recorded a top three finish in previous Kentucky Derby starts.

Unraced since the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI), Game Winner sustained his first setback but knocked off any rust with a good effort against a quality rival. It was an 8 ¼-length gap back to third and Game Winner registered a 102 Late Pace rating after finishing full of run.

The three-time Grade I winner rated in mid-pack and began making up ground on the far turn. Game Winner traveled wide into the stretch and rallied sharply into contention in the latter stages to just miss in the head-bobbing photo. Baffert came away pleased with his effort and the son of Candy Ride is certainly eligible to move forward next time. Game Winner will make his final Kentucky Derby prep in the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby (GI) on April 6.

### ***Other 3-Year-Olds of Interest***

**Alwaysmining** was exiting a couple of fast wins but had never tried two turns from 10 previous starts entering Saturday's Private Terms at Laurel Park. The Stay Thirsty gelding made the extra ground look easy recording a 6 ¾-length tally at the about 1 1/16-mile distance, leading wire to wire beneath regular rider **Daniel Centeno**. **Kelly Rubley** trains for **Runnymede Racing**. Alwaysmining didn't appear to be facing much in the seven-horse field, but he looked good notching a fifth consecutive win and received career-best BRIS Speed (99) and Late Pace (103) numbers. Connections said they will consider the April 6 Blue Grass (GII) at Keeneland but may stay at Laurel for the April 20 Federico Tesio, a "Win and You're In" for the Preakness Stakes.

### ***Preview***

After convincing scores in the Risen Star (GII) and Lecomte (GIII), War of Will can sweep the "Fair Grounds Triple" in the Louisiana Derby. There isn't much pace in the field and the son of War Front was arguably a little headstrong last time in the Risen Star; it will be interesting to see how he settles during the early stages on the stretch out in distance. **Tyler Gaffalione** rides the 6-5 morning line favorite.

**Spinoff** rates as a dangerous contender for four-time Louisiana Derby winner **Todd Pletcher**. An 11-length allowance winner at Tampa Bay Downs, the Hard Spun colt appears likely to show speed with **John Velazquez**. Risen Star runner-up **Country House** has been pegged as the 9-2 second choice for Mott.

### ***Scully's Kentucky Derby Top 10***

- 1.OMAHA BEACH: Game Rebel win in stakes debut
- 2.GAME WINNER: Missed by a nose in Rebel comebacker
- 3.COUNTRY HOUSE: Makes second stakes appearance in Louisiana Derby
- 4.WAR OF WILL: Louisiana Derby favorite has done little wrong
- 5.LONG RANGE TODDY: Liked his improving form in Rebel
- 6.IMPROBABLE: Came back a little short off the layoff
- 7.CODE OF HONOR: Broke through in Fountain of Youth
- 8.BOURBON WAR: Fountain of Youth runner-up packs late punch
- 9.HIDDEN SCROLL: Florida Derby will be key for talented colt
- 10.TACITUS: Rallied to win Tampa Bay Derby in stakes debut

### **LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE**

**FAIR GROUNDS OAKS, SUNLAND PARK OAKS TOP WEEKEND DOUBLEHEADER ON ROAD TO KENTUCKY OAKS** – The Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series is back in action Saturday following a one-week hiatus with the Grade II, \$400,000 Fair Grounds Oaks in New Orleans followed by Sunday's \$200,000 Sunland Park Oaks in New Mexico.

The Fair Grounds Oaks is carded as Race 12 on Fair Grounds' 13-race program with a scheduled post time of 5:44 p.m. (all times Eastern).

The 1 1/16-mile race, which is the first of six Championship Series events to offer the Top 4 finishers points on a 100-40-20-10 scale, features **Joel Politi's** impressive Rachel Alexandra (GII) winner **Serengeti Empress**.

The Fair Grounds Oaks has produced several Longines Kentucky Oaks winners such as **Ashado** (2004), **Summerly** (2005), **Rachel Alexandra** (2009), **Believe You Can** (2012) and **Untapable** (2014).

Also on tap this weekend is Sunday's Sunland Park Oaks that features the return of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah's half-sister **Chasing Yesterday**. The **Bob Baffert** trainee is making her first start since winning the Starlet (GI) in December at Los Alamitos.

Las Virgines Stakes (GII) hero **Bellafina** entered the Sunland Park Oaks but is expected to scratch in favor of the April 6 Santa Anita Oaks (GI), according to her trainer **Simon Callaghan**.

The Sunland Park Oaks will award the Top 4 finishers points on a 50-20-10-5 scale. – **Kevin Kerstein**

### **ROAD TO THE LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 20**

#	Horse	Trainer	Points
1.	Serengeti Empress	Tom Amoss	60
2.	Chocolate Kisses	Mark Casse	51
3.	Jeltrin	Alexis Delgado	51
4.	Espresso Shot	Jorje Abreu	50
5.	Jaywalk	John Servis	35
6.	Bellafina	Simon Callaghan	32
7.	Liora	Wayne Catalano	31
8.	Restless Rider	Kenny McPeck	22
9.	Oxy Lady	Jack Sisterson	21
10.	Naughty Joker	Wesley Ward	20
11.	Motion Emotion	Tom Van Berg	20
12.	\$-Cookie Dough	Stan Gold	20
13.	Eres Tu	Steve Asmussen	14
14.	Champagne Anyone	Ian Wilkes	13
15.	Chasing Yesterday	Bob Baffert	10
16.	Positive Spirit	Rodolphe Brisset	10
17.	Needs Supervision	Jerry O'Dwyer	10
18.	Feedback	Chad Brown	10
19.	Power Gal (JPN)	Mark Casse	10
20.	Point of Honor	George Weaver	10

§ Notified Churchill Downs officials that they will late nominate to the Kentucky Oaks

### **TAKING SHAPE**

The possible fields for Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as horsemen vie for points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve." Below are known horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race based on published news reports and other sources:

#### **UAE DERBY (GII)**

Saturday, March 30, \$2.5 million, 3yo, 1 3/16 M, Meydan Racecourse, Dubai, Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>	
Derma Louvre (0)	Hirofumi Toda
+Divine Image (0)	Charlie Appleby
+Esthdaaf (0)	Saeed bin Suroor
+Golden Jaguar (0)	Ahmad bin Harmash
Gray Magician (1)	Peter Miller
+Grecco (0)	Kenny McPeck
+Jahbath (0)	William Haggas
+Manguzi (0)	Ali Rashid Al Rayhi
Plus Que Parfait (4)	Brendan Walsh
Stubbins (0)	Doug O'Neill
Superior (0)	Ahmad bin Harmash
+Swift Rose (0)	Saeed bin Suroor
Van Beethoven (0)	Aiden O'Brien
Walking Thunder (0)	Ahmad bin Harmash

#### **FLORIDA DERBY (GI)**

Saturday, March 30, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Gulfstream Park, Hallandale Beach, Fla., Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

Horse (Points)	Trainer	Brisnet.com Prime Power	Run Style
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Hidden Scroll (5)	Bill Mott	140.8	E 6
Code of Honor (54)	Shug McGaughey	138.9	P 2
Bourbon War (21)	Mark Hennig	134.9	S 0
Harvey Wallbanger (10)	Kenny McPeck	129.0	S 0
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Vekoma (10)	George Weaver	141.1	P 5

## WOOD MEMORIAL (GII)

Saturday, April 6, \$750,000, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Aqueduct, Ozone, N.Y., Top 4  
Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Haikal (50)	Kiaran McLaughlin	140.8	S 3
Mind Control (30)	Gregg Sacco	140.0	E/P 3
Tax (12)	Danny Gargan	137.8	E/P 7
Tacitus (50)	Bill Mott	132.1	E/P 4
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Instagrand (10)	Jerry Hollendorfer	145.7	E/P 6
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Vekoma (10)	George Weaver	141.1	P 5
Hidden Scroll (5)	Bill Mott	140.8	E 6
Code of Honor (54)	Shug McGaughey	138.9	P 2
Bourbon War (21)	Mark Hennig	134.9	S 0
Outshine	Todd Pletcher	134.6	P 6
Gunmetal Gray (21.75)	Jerry Hollendorfer	130.3	P 0
Nolo Contesto (0)	John Sadler	130.2	E/P 5

## BLUE GRASS (GII)

Saturday, April 6, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top 4  
Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Somelikeithotbrown (20)	Mike Maker	144.4	E/P 7
Signalman (18)	Kenny McPeck	135.9	P 1
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Vekoma (10)	George Weaver	141.1	P 5
Hidden Scroll (5)	Bill Mott	140.8	E 6
Code of Honor (54)	Shug McGaughey	138.9	P 2
Outshine (20)	Todd Pletcher	134.6	P 6
Knicks Go (18)	Ben Colebrook	134.3	E 7
Gunmetal Gray (21.75)	Jerry Hollendorfer	130.3	P 0
Nolo Contesto (0)	John Sadler	130.2	E/P 5

## SANTA ANITA DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 6, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Santa Anita, Arcadia, Calif., Top 4  
Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Game Winner (30)	Bob Baffert	153.4	P 3
<b>Known Probable Starters:</b>			
Instagrand (10)	Jerry Hollendorfer	145.7	E/P 6
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Omaha Beach (37.5)	Richard Mandella	139.4	E/P 8
Extra Hope (5.75)	Richard Mandella	135.1	E/P 6
Roadster (0)	Bob Baffert	135.0	E/P 7
Gunmetal Gray (21.75)	Jerry Hollendorfer	130.3	P 0
Nolo Contesto (0)	John Sadler	130.2	E/P 5

## ARKANSAS DERBY (GI)

Saturday, April 13, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, Oaklawn Park, Hot Springs, Ark.,  
Top 4 Points: 100-40-20-10.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Likely Starters:</b>			
Improbable (25)	Bob Baffert	146.3	E/P 6
Long Range Toddy (57.5)	Steve Asmussen	137.8	E/P 6
<b>Known Probable Starters:</b>			
Vekoma (10)	George Weaver	141.1	P 5
Galilean (7.5)	Jerry Hollendorfer	141.1	E 8
Omaha Beach (37.5)	Richard Mandella	139.4	E/P 8
Extra Hope (5.75)	Richard Mandella	135.1	E/P 6
Outshine (20)	Todd Pletcher	134.6	P 6
Gray Attempt (10)	Jinks Fires	132.9	E 8
Last Judgment (0)	Todd Pletcher	132.1	E/P 6
Gunmetal Gray (21.75)	Jerry Hollendorfer	130.3	P 0
Nolo Contesto (0)	John Sadler	130.2	E/P 5
Market King (7.5)	D. Wayne Lukas	127.9	E 8

## LEXINGTON (GIII)

Saturday, April 13, \$200,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Keeneland, Lexington, Ky., Top  
4 Points: 20-8-4-2.

<u>Horse (Points)</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Brisnet.com Prime Power</u>	<u>Run Style</u>
<b>Known Possible Starters:</b>			
Knicks Go (18)	Ben Colebrook	134.3	E 7

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